

DEATH OF CLIF LEAR

• Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, several weeks ago Cibola County in New Mexico lost one of its leading citizens when Clif Lear of Grants died of cancer.

A businessman, he took public service very seriously and served over the years as a city councilman and as the city manager. His contributions to economic development in an area hit hard when the mines closed made a huge difference to the people of Cibola County, as he worked tirelessly to attract new initiatives and new projects.

His wife and three daughters have the sympathy and appreciation of us all who are grateful for Clif's life and the effort he made to make his corner of New Mexico better.●

SENATE WILDERNESS AND PUBLIC LANDS CAUCUS

• Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I proudly join my colleagues as a founding member of this newly created Senate Wilderness and Public Lands Caucus. I congratulate my friend, Senator FEINGOLD, for his bold spirit and commitment to the active protection of our public lands. I accepted Senator FEINGOLD's invitation to participate in this new Caucus because we share a responsibility to protect the natural resources that sustain our world and grace the quality of our lives.

On this day, we commemorate the success of the 1964 Wilderness Act with a renewed commitment to responsible preservation. More than 35 years since the Act's passage, Americans can more readily cherish and enjoy pristine lands in their natural state, unencumbered by growth and development. An important goal of this new Caucus is the desire to improve our process for making important land management decisions impacting our public lands.

Developing consensus policy for public lands protection is of particular necessity and importance for western states. In Arizona, more than 80 percent of lands are held in public ownership, with 4.5 million acres designated as wilderness. Arizonans enjoy wilderness in such places as the Superstition Mountains, Cabeza Prieta, Baboquivari Peak and the Red Rock Secret Mountain.

Many more difficult land management decisions will require our thoughtful consideration. For example, the state of Arizona has grappled for more than ten years over the question of wilderness suitability for the state's largest national park, the Grand Canyon National Park. Arizonans are still engaged in deliberations of this important decision, as well as determining appropriate land management decisions for other areas in our state.

Each of us is well aware that public land management is divisive and, if not carefully developed, can usually result

in unfair games of give-and-take between land-users and conservationists. A fine balance between competing users has proved to be possible, and it is this balance toward which we must strive. I am joining with my colleagues in this Caucus because I believe that any decisions we make in the Congress for public land policy should heed the spirit of bipartisanship, promote the ethics of stewardship and multiple use, and protect individual rights. In general, we must ensure that all viewpoints on land-use issues are given fair opportunity to be heard.

We should find our inspiration in the example of a hero of mine, and a statesman of the highest virtue, Mo Udall, whose grace and wisdom should inspire every American. Mo once taught a freshman Congressman from the other side of the aisle a valuable lesson. He reached across party lines to enlist me in the effort to tackle environmental problems in our home state.

Mo's faith in the pursuit of cooperation and consensus enabled us to enact landmark legislation placing 3.5 million acres of pristine Arizona lands into the Wilderness Preservation System. Contrary to the predictions of naysayers and competing political interests, Mo Udall brought the Arizona congressional delegation together with broad support from the public. This was no simple task, but it worked, and Mo Udall demonstrated to his colleagues and constituents a successful formula for bringing together people of good faith and different perspectives to achieve a common purpose.

This new Caucus gives us an opportunity to uphold our commitment to responsible preservation while protecting the rights of all Americans for public use of lands. I encourage our colleagues, of all minds on this issue, to join in the Caucus so that our recommendations and discussions can be fully representative of all interested parties.●

• Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, I rise today to express my great pride in becoming a founding member of the newly-formed Senate Wilderness and Public Lands Caucus. The protection of public lands is critical to the preservation of our national heritage, the protection of our environmental health and the endurance of the American tradition of respect for natural resources.

In September of 1964, the Wilderness Protection Act was passed. It was a landmark in public land protection, establishing that some lands managed by the federal government should be preserved as wilderness for the benefit of all Americans. My father was among the Senators who worked to pass that legislation.

Today, wilderness areas are under even greater pressure from increasing development and expansion. As Governor of Indiana, I worked to protect state lands by establishing the Indiana

Heritage Trust, which preserved sensitive areas with the proceeds from sales of environmental license plates. That initiative resulted in the protection of more than 5000 acres of threatened lands.

I am proud to join my colleagues in the Senate in starting the Wilderness and Public Lands Caucus and carrying forward the tradition of stewardship of federal lands reflected in the Wilderness Act of 1964. I would like to thank Senator FEINGOLD in particular for his leadership and dedication to this issue.

We have the obligation and the opportunity to protect the natural heritage that belongs to all Americans. The Wilderness and Public Lands Caucus will be an important asset in pursuing that goal by providing support and education regarding federal land management and wilderness areas.●

PROVIDING ASSISTANCE FOR POISON PREVENTION AND FUNDING OF REGIONAL POISON CENTERS—S. 632

On August 5, 1999, the Senate passed S. 632, as follows:

S. 632

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Poison Control Center Enhancement and Awareness Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Each year more than 2,000,000 poisonings are reported to poison control centers throughout the United States. More than 90 percent of these poisonings happen in the home. 53 percent of poisoning victims are children younger than 6 years of age.

(2) Poison control centers are a valuable national resource that provide life-saving and cost-effective public health services. For every dollar spent on poison control centers, \$7 in medical costs are saved. The average cost of a poisoning exposure call is \$32, while the average cost if other parts of the medical system are involved is \$932. Over the last 2 decades, the instability and lack of funding has resulted in a steady decline in the number of poison control centers in the United States. Within just the last year, 2 poison control centers have been forced to close because of funding problems. A third poison control center is scheduled to close in April 1999. Currently, there are 73 such centers.

(3) Stabilizing the funding structure and increasing accessibility to poison control centers will increase the number of United States residents who have access to a certified poison control center, and reduce the inappropriate use of emergency medical services and other more costly health care services.

SEC. 3. DEFINITION.

In this Act, the term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL TOLL-FREE NUMBER.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide coordination and assistance to regional poison control centers for the establishment of a nationwide toll-free phone number to be used to access such centers.

(b) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this section shall be construed as prohibiting the establishment or continued operation of any privately funded nationwide toll-free phone number used to provide advice and other assistance for poisonings or accidental exposures.

(c) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section, \$2,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2000 through 2004. Funds appropriated under this subsection shall not be used to fund any toll-free phone number described in subsection (b).

SEC. 5. ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONWIDE MEDIA CAMPAIGN.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall establish a national media campaign to educate the public and health care providers about poison prevention and the availability of poison control resources in local communities and to conduct advertising campaigns concerning the nationwide toll-free number established under section 4.

(b) **CONTRACT WITH ENTITY.**—The Secretary may carry out subsection (a) by entering into contracts with 1 or more nationally recognized media firms for the development and distribution of monthly television, radio, and newspaper public service announcements.

(c) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section, \$600,000 for each of the fiscal years 2000 through 2004.

SEC. 6. ESTABLISHMENT OF A GRANT PROGRAM.

(a) **REGIONAL POISON CONTROL CENTERS.**—The Secretary shall award grants to certified regional poison control centers for the purposes of achieving the financial stability of such centers, and for preventing and providing treatment recommendations for poisonings.

(b) **OTHER IMPROVEMENTS.**—The Secretary shall also use amounts received under this section to—

- (1) develop standard education programs;
- (2) develop standard patient management protocols for commonly encountered toxic exposures;
- (3) improve and expand the poison control data collection systems;
- (4) improve national toxic exposure surveillance; and
- (5) expand the physician/medical toxicologist supervision of poison control centers.

(c) **CERTIFICATION.**—Except as provided in subsection (d), the Secretary may make a grant to a center under subsection (a) only if—

(1) the center has been certified by a professional organization in the field of poison control, and the Secretary has approved the organization as having in effect standards for certification that reasonably provide for the protection of the public health with respect to poisoning; or

(2) the center has been certified by a State government, and the Secretary has approved the State government as having in effect standards for certification that reasonably provide for the protection of the public health with respect to poisoning.

(d) **WAIVER OF CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary may grant a waiver of the certification requirement of subsection (c) with respect to a noncertified poison control center or a newly established center that applies for a grant under this section if such center can reasonably demonstrate that the center will obtain such a certification within a reasonable period of

time as determined appropriate by the Secretary.

(2) **RENEWAL.**—The Secretary may only renew a waiver under paragraph (1) for a period of 3 years.

(e) **SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.**—Amounts made available to a poison control center under this section shall be used to supplement and not supplant other Federal, State, or local funds provided for such center.

(f) **MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT.**—A poison control center, in utilizing the proceeds of a grant under this section, shall maintain the expenditures of the center for activities of the center at a level that is not less than the level of such expenditures maintained by the center for the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year for which the grant is received.

(g) **MATCHING REQUIREMENT.**—The Secretary may impose a matching requirement with respect to amounts provided under a grant under this section if the Secretary determines appropriate.

(h) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section, \$25,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2000 through 2004.

E-911 ACT OF 1999

On August 5, 1999, the Senate passed S. 800, as follows:

S. 800

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Wireless Communications and Public Safety Act of 1999”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—The Congress finds that—

(1) the establishment and maintenance of an end-to-end communications infrastructure among members of the public, emergency safety, fire service and law enforcement officials, emergency dispatch providers, transportation officials, and hospital emergency and trauma care facilities will reduce response times for the delivery of emergency care, assist in delivering appropriate care, and thereby prevent fatalities, substantially reduce the severity and extent of injuries, reduce time lost from work, and save thousands of lives and billions of dollars in health care costs;

(2) the rapid, efficient deployment of emergency telecommunications service requires statewide coordination of the efforts of local public safety, fire service and law enforcement officials, emergency dispatch providers, and transportation officials; the establishment of sources of adequate funding for carrier and public safety, fire service and law enforcement agency technology development and deployment; the coordination and integration of emergency communications with traffic control and management systems and the designation of 9-1-1 as the number to call in emergencies throughout the Nation;

(3) emerging technologies can be a critical component of the end-to-end communications infrastructure connecting the public with emergency medical service providers and emergency dispatch providers, public safety, fire service and law enforcement officials, and hospital emergency and trauma care facilities, to reduce emergency response times and provide appropriate care;

(4) improved public safety remains an important public health objective of Federal, State, and local governments and substan-

tially facilitates interstate and foreign commerce;

(5) emergency care systems, particularly in rural areas of the Nation, will improve with the enabling of prompt notification of emergency services when motor vehicle crashes occur; and

(6) the construction and operation of seamless, ubiquitous, and reliable wireless telecommunications systems promote public safety and provide immediate and critical communications links among members of the public; emergency medical service providers and emergency dispatch providers; public safety, fire service and law enforcement officials; transportation officials, and hospital emergency and trauma care facilities.

(b) **PURPOSE.**—The purpose of this Act is to encourage and facilitate the prompt deployment throughout the United States of a seamless, ubiquitous, and reliable end-to-end infrastructure for communications, including wireless communications, to meet the Nation’s public safety and other communications needs.

SEC. 3. UNIVERSAL EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBER.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT OF UNIVERSAL EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBER.**—Section 251(e) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 251(e)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3) **UNIVERSAL EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBER.**—The Commission and any agency or entity to which the Commission has delegated authority under this subsection shall designate 9-1-1 as the universal emergency telephone number within the United States for reporting an emergency to appropriate authorities and requesting assistance. The designation shall apply to both wireline and wireless telephone service. In making the designation, the Commission (and any such agency or entity) shall provide appropriate transition periods for areas in which 9-1-1 is not in use as an emergency telephone number on the date of enactment of the Wireless Communications and Public Safety Act of 1999.”

(b) **SUPPORT.**—The Federal Communications Commission shall encourage and support efforts by States to deploy comprehensive end-to-end emergency communications infrastructure and programs, based on coordinated statewide plans, including seamless, ubiquitous, reliable wireless telecommunications networks and enhanced wireless 9-1-1 service. In encouraging and supporting that deployment, the Commission shall consult and cooperate with State and local officials responsible for emergency services and public safety, the telecommunications industry (specifically including the cellular and other wireless telecommunications service providers), the motor vehicle manufacturing industry, emergency medical service providers and emergency dispatch providers, transportation officials, special 9-1-1 districts, public safety, fire service and law enforcement officials, consumer groups, and hospital emergency and trauma care personnel (including emergency physicians, trauma surgeons, and nurses). The Commission shall encourage each State to develop and implement coordinated statewide deployment plans, through an entity designated by the governor, and to include representatives of the foregoing organizations and entities in development and implementation of such plans. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to authorize or require the Commission to impose obligations or costs on any person.